

REMARKS

Claims 108-110, 112, and 123-153 remain in this application. Claims 85-107, 111, and 113-122 have been cancelled without prejudice. Applicant reserves the right to pursue these claims in one or more continuation applications. Claim 109 has been amended. Claims 123-153 have been added. The amended and added claims are supported by the specification and no new matter has been added. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

As an initial matter, the Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for his careful search, examination, and for finding allowable subject matter. The Examiner has indicated that claims 108-112 are allowable. Of these, claims 108-110 and 112 remain in the application. New claims 123-153 are also believed to be allowable. Of these, claims 123-136 depend from claim 108 and are believed to be allowable therefor, as well as for the recitations independently set forth therein. Independent claim 137 is believed to be allowable for a reason similar to the reason claim 108 is allowable. Claims 138-153 depend from claim 137, and are believed to be allowable therefor, as well as for the recitations independently set forth therein.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection – Usami in view of Havemann and Doo

The Examiner has rejected claims 85-89 and 102-107 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,222,269 issued to Usami (hereinafter referred to as “Usami”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,751,066 issued to Havemann (hereinafter “Havemann”) and U.S. Patent No. 4,153,988 issued to Doo (hereinafter “Doo”). These claims have been cancelled without prejudice.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection – Havemann and Doo

The Examiner has rejected claims 90-101 and 113-122 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,751,066 issued to Havemann (hereinafter "Havemann") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,153,988 issued to Doo (hereinafter "Doo"). These claims have been cancelled without prejudice.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed at the earliest possible date.

Request For Telephone Interview

The Examiner is invited to call Brent E. Vecchia at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Request For An Extension Of Time

The Applicants respectfully petition for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 for such an extension.

Charge Our Deposit Account

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

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